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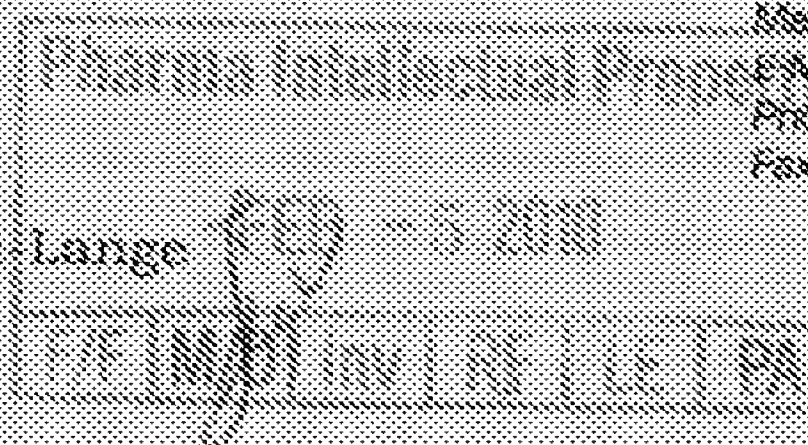
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VIA Facsimile
Confirmation by Mail

February 3, 2010

Your Case: PAT033587-JP-PCT
Our Case: P208795
Subject: Japanese Patent Application No. 2006-548267
Applicant(s): NOVARTIS AG
Deadline: May 2, 2010 (Official)
(Extendable for 1 month each up to three times)

Dear Sirs:

With respect to the above-identified case, this is to advise you that an official action was issued on February 2, 2010. A response to the official action must be filed on or before **May 2, 2010 (extendable for 1 month each up to three times)**.

In the official action, the Examiner cited the following references only to show the state of art, i.e. not as the grounds for rejection.

- A: WO 03/099776
B: Journal of Clinical Investigation, 2000, 105 (11), pp. 1595-1604

The Examiner raised four rejections which are based on non-patentable subject matter, non-enablement, no supporting disclosure and indefiniteness.

We will provide you shortly with our detailed comment on the official action.

Sincerely yours,
AOYAMA & PARTNERS

Takanori Aoyama

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